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10 Top State, Local, Union Investors Urge SEC, Corporate, Wall Street Action on Global Warming Risks to Pensions; Treasurers, Comptrollers from CA, CT, NY, NYC, ME, NM, OR, VT, and Biggest Labor Pension Funds Issue 'Action' Steps, Create New Network at UN Summit.

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NEW YORK, Nov. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- Eight state and city treasurers and comptrollers and two major labor pension fund leaders today issued a 10-point "call for action" demanding tough new steps by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), corporate boards and Wall Street firms to increase corporate disclosure of the risks posed by climate change to pension fund investors.

In an unprecedented institutional investor summit held at the United Nations (UN), the officials said that they will immediately petition the SEC for enforcement of environmental risk disclosure requirements, seek climate risk disclosure at companies in the oil & gas, electric power, automobile and other sectors, and form an "Investor Network on Climate Risk" to follow through on their plans. They also urged other institutional investors such as pension and mutual funds to vote in support of shareholder resolutions seeking disclosure of climate risks for investors. (For details on the 10-point action plan and the network, go to <http://www.incr.com/> on the Web.)

The initial members of the Network and signers of the 10-point call for action include California Treasurer Phil Angelides, Connecticut Treasurer Denise Nappier, Maine Treasurer Dale McCormick, New Mexico Treasurer Robert Virgil, New York City Comptroller William Thompson, New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Oregon Treasurer Randall Edwards, Vermont Treasurer Jeb Spaulding, SEIU National Industry Pension Fund Director Steve Abrecht and CWA/ITA Negotiated Pension Plan Chairman William Boarman.

California State Treasurer Phil Angelides said: "In global warming, we are facing an enormous risk to the U.S. economy and to retirement funds that Wall Street has so far chosen to ignore. The corporate scandals over the last couple of years have made it clear that investors need to pay more attention to corporate practices that affect long-term value. As fiduciaries, we must take it upon ourselves to identify the emerging environmental challenges facing the companies in which we are shareholders, to demand more information, and to spur needed actions to respond to those challenges."

Connecticut Treasurer Denise Nappier said: "Companies that fail to adequately disclose potential liabilities related to climate risk and financial analysts who ignore the potential financial risks of investments in these companies run the risk

of fueling the next governance crisis. As investors, we can not afford any more casualties of corporate irresponsibility or regulatory loopholes."

New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi said: "Today, we are taking aim at the SEC for not enforcing key rules on disclosure of environmental issues. We are focusing on corporate boards that come up short on corporate governance by failing to analyze and disclose environmental risks. And we urge Wall Street fund management firms to develop an analysis of climate change risk for portfolio companies and industries."

The major new announcements were made at the Institutional Investor Summit on Climate Risk held at the United Nations Friday, an historic meeting marking the first time major pension funds and other institutional investors met to consider the risks to portfolios posed by climate change. Also in attendance were senior executives of Bank of America, Bank of New York, Goldman Sachs, Lazard Asset Management, Lehman Brothers, Marsh and McLennan, Morgan Stanley, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The summit was organized by **CERES**, a U.S.-based coalition of investment funds and public interest groups, and co-chaired by Connecticut State Treasurer Denise Nappier and United Nations Foundation President Timothy Wirth. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, the UN Environment Programme, and other UN agencies supported the meeting.

Also in attendance at the summit were trustees of Los Angeles and New York City pension funds, the heads of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), as well as representatives of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System and the Michigan Municipal Employee Retirement System. Other attendees included former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, currently vice chairman of Metropolitan West Financial, and John Coomber, CEO of Swiss Re.

CERES Executive Director Mindy Lubber said: "This event demonstrates that major institutional investors are aware that climate change is likely to harm not only our planet but also our pocketbooks and our pension checks. The treasurers and other fiduciaries at the UN have a lot of questions for their fund managers, and we hope they get the answers quickly."

To read the full 10-point action plan, go to http://www.incr.com/call_to_action.htm on the Web.

GLOBAL WARMING BACKGROUND

Industry sectors that contribute to global warming through major emissions of carbon dioxide, and are therefore vulnerable to new regulation and possible future legal action, include: electric power, transportation (including auto), oil and gas, and some manufacturing. Recent studies have also suggested that because U.S. companies are not currently subject to carbon dioxide regulation in the U.S., they

are falling behind their foreign counterparts in developing new, carbon-free technologies, and will hold costly "carbon burdens" in global emissions trading markets.

Industries identified as vulnerable to the effects of global warming itself include: agriculture, fisheries, forestry (pulp and paper), insurance, real estate, tourism, and water.